



Desert Division *DISPATCH*



ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

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Volume 36, No. 3

April, 2007

MARCH IN THE DESERT IS GREEN

Members and visitors gathered for the “Green” Meet on March 10. Guests Jeff Wiley (son of John Wiley, from Illinois) and Frank Farrar (from Massachusetts) joined us, as did new members Ray Romstadt and Dan Melucci. Membership cards and rosters were given to members in attendance; the rest went out in the mail.

Bob Herman announced that the savings account currently has \$16,306.49 and checking has \$8,994.65, while Trains for Kids has \$249.30. The cell phone collection has netted the Convention Treasury about \$200 so far. Members are urged to continue to donate deactivated cell phones to the Division for this fund-raiser. The Spring Raffle ticket sales began at the March Meet, for the items to be awarded in June. Hudson Raffle tickets were also available for the grand prize to be awarded at the Turkey Meet in November.

Ed Georgevich announced a change in the 2007 Turkey Meet. The Sunday Auction will be held in the large room so the displays and operating layouts can remain set up for two days. People who show up on Sunday for the operating trains will be asked for a donation, though the auction admission will still be the cost of the Catalog. Another change is that we intend to advertise the Turkey Meet differently, so that people will not be confused by the Swap Meet on Saturday and the Auction on Sunday. Anyone with ideas or feedback about the Turkey Meet should contact Ed Georgevich (623-784-2960) or Katie Elgar (623-580-6957).

Marty Wik presented the Lionel O-Scale Car which will be a Convention Car offering in 2009. This is not a Division fund-raiser car, but rather a National TCA car to go with the 50th Anniversary set. It is a 1946-48 rebuilt Lionel reefer with a Grand Canyon Lines logo. Marty also joined the “green” theme, by presenting a home-made Roswell Car, which none of the manufacturers will make for us, because of the hazards of the flying saucer. Other cars will be presented each month until members have seen all five. Thank you, Angelo and Barbara Lautazi, for our assistance with the computer graphics.

Ed Micale gave us an update on the Celebrate Arizona fund-raiser cars. A total of 265 sets were pre-ordered, but the Convention Committee has ordered extra sets. Once these are received, they will be sold though at a higher price than the original orders, at future events. A second car is in the works: an Atlas beer car, with a minimum order of 152 cars. Peter Atonna will show us a sample of this car at our April Meet.

The date of the Holiday Party is December 9, at the Mesa Marriott, the same as last year. We had great food in a very attractive venue, and we hope all members will avail themselves of this activity this year.

Chet Henry announced that he has Auction Lots available for the April Pizza Meetza. The cost is \$5 per lot, but the seller keeps the entire selling price of the item(s). Convention donations are also welcome, but there is no charge for these.

The Denver Convention hotel is 99% full, so members who cannot get a room are advised to try the Omni Interlocken Resort or the DoubleTree Denver North. Both are approximately 5 minutes away from the Westin Convention Hotel and both have a TCA rate. (See article in newsletter for more information.) Alternates for the 2007 Convention will be Gordon Wilson, Christie Wilson, and Bob Herman. It was announced that candidates for National Offices must be nominated by the April Pizza Meetza.

A huge Get-Well card for Cole Gibbs was available for members to sign, as he underwent a laryngectomy on March 10. The card was delivered on Monday, March 12, to a very appreciative patient.

COMING UP...

April 14	PIZZA MEETZA, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
April 20-21	Eastern Division Meet, York, PA
May 12	Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the Educational Segment featured "Green Trains." Paul Wassermann began with a Pre-War American Flyer streamliner called the Green Diamond and a green Lionel UPM5000 City of Denver, usually seen in brown and yellow. Gordon Wilson brought several green items. First was a GG-1 Music Box playing "Chattanooga Choo Choo." Next were 4 variations of the aquarium car. First said "Tank No. 1" and "Tank No. 2" and was heat-stamped with a gold circle around the Lionel L; second omitted the gold circle; third omitted the words "Tank No. 1" and "Tank No. 2"; and the fourth went to rubber stamping. Gordon also brought in a green caboose out of a military set, and a trio of cattle cars: one is missing the built date, one according to the price guides does not exist, and one has metal trucks. Bob Johnston brought in a collection of Chicago and Northwestern cars. As a child he went to the Milwaukee Butler Yard and took pictures of the trains, then went home and repainted his trains in the C&NW paint scheme, whether C&NW had that car or not! Later he repainted some Madison cars to a green color. Bob also brought in some Great Northern cars in their green color scheme. He was critical of the Burlington Northern shade of green, preferring today's BNSF green and pumpkin colors. He also brought an Atlas Train Man and a K-Line GP-38 to round out the "green" theme. Bob Mancus was next. His Dorfman "father and son" showed the Standard Gauge piece with its superb lithography and then the O-gauge piece of the same thing. Clark McClure brought in a homemade "Young's Farm" car. The farm lasted for 60 years, but has been sold. Last fall he bought two bags of candy to get the logos, then went to Wal-Mart and the 99-cent store for tractors. It has a diesel frame and Weaver trucks. Of note also is that the farm machinery and Kiddie Railroad will be sold at Auction on March 31 of this year. Earl Rasmussen was next, with a 153 model engine, coach, and observation car. While visiting his brother in Florida, his sister-in-law gave these to Earl, who then took them to Bob Herman to put them into running order. John Craft had a repro of a Lionel 2 7/8" derrick car. This might be a Bob McCoy piece from 1960 or a Jim Cowan piece from the 1970's. Either way, it is a reproduction of the kind of thing Lionel made in 1903 and 1904. John Wiley brought in a 1928 American Flyer set which he tried to buy 45 years ago. More recently a friend called and offered to sell it to him, and he raced over to complete the deal. The train runs on Lionel track, but it wouldn't take the curves, so John re-wheeled it and now it runs very well. Jerry Sienkiewicz admits to not reading the bulletin, but his Hafner set with a yellow engine and red cars fit the theme because there is a green Santa Fe car in it, though it is rare because of its red frame. This wind-up engine has silver colored pieces on the sides, but they were never riveted in place and have no holes for rivets to go into. Sam McElwee thought trains should be black, not green. However, he ordered a Williams Southern Railroad engine for a customer who never came back. Now Sam has a green engine, and he'll gladly sell it to anyone who likes green trains – he'll stick to black engines and save green for pool tables! Jonathan Peiffer brought in 5 GG-1 samples from his collection. Interestingly the Pennsy green paint is 7 parts black and only 1 part green. At any rate, he brought in an MTH Conrail overpaint, a Lionel JLC series GG-1 with high filters that Pennsy used in the 1970's, a Williams 1-stripe GG-1, a Williams 5-stripe GG-1, and the predecessor to the GG-1, a P5-A. (The original of this engine was so heavy it destroyed the track, so the Pennsy line used it to pull freight at slower speeds.) Whew! All that for the green theme! Next month the theme will be Pizza/Italian/ Fast food & Beverage related trains. Let's see if we can top (or equal) this month's presentation.

Correction: The chairmanship of the Desert Division Bylaws Committee was mistakenly identified in last month's bulletin. This committee is made up of Bob Johnston and Earl Rasmussen.

Paul Wassermann announced that the Division now has an e-Bay site, [tcadesertdivision](http://tcadesertdivision.com). Proceeds go to the 2009 Convention. (See article elsewhere in this bulletin.)

Terry Haas announced the April 14 and 15 open houses for Garden Railroad enthusiasts. Contact Terry (480-827-8604) for more information.

Our March Mystery Greeter, John Wiley, selected Bob Johnston to receive the ten free raffle tickets. Melissa Peiffer pulled the first ticket, and it belonged to Ken Barnes, who selected the Hudson Raffle Ticket as his prize. Other prizes are listed below.

John Pryor	Ready-Made truck with orange/blue cars
Jim Hamra	Assorted railroad theme books
Jonathan Peiffer	K-Line transformer
Chuck Eral	Corgi "Legends" truck
Gordon Wilson	CTT gift subscription (donated by Kalmbach)
Ira Bernstein	Bouquet of flowers (donated by Christie Wilson)
John Wiley	Railroad Journeys Video
Ivan English	Chocolate train, tin Lionel toy, box of trucks
Ken Barnes	Railroad hat and key chain

Melissa returned to the front of the room to pull the winning Hudson Raffle ticket. John Wiley won the \$100 bill.

The meeting adjourned to lunch and then a visit to Bob Herman's very eclectic toy train collection/layout.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

News coming out of RMD/TCA and National Business Office. If you haven't yet registered for the 2007 TCA Convention in Denver, you can now use plastic! Yes, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted for the fees. You can download a new form off of the website: rmdtoytrains.org, complete it, and send in your form. It has been a while since the National Convention has been so close to our boundaries. Of course in two years it will be here in the Desert Division. This is a great opportunity for those who haven't been to a train convention before, to get to know what goes on at a National TCA Convention. There are some great trips planned in the Rocky Mountains and the Mile High City, as well as some great layout visits.

Also on the same Convention topic, the Convention Hotel is sold out, but there are two more nearby hotels which have great rates. Check out the latest Headquarter News or check out the website, or call me (623-580-6957) and you can get the info on these hotels.

March's Desert Division meeting brought out a wide range of the green. Great job to all who participated. The theme, in keeping with St. Patrick's Day, was green trains. What a variety of cars and train sets, all in green, were there to be seen. Right down to a scratch-built car commemorating Young's Farm, which is up in Dewey, AZ: a favorite stopping off place to pick up farm-fresh produce, turkeys and many other delights, but is now closing forever.

The March "Ray Korte Picnic" was well attended considering the threat of 100 degree weather and the timing of the picnic with the Nor-Cal Meet. Food and fellowship was great. No need for hot coffee this year as there was last year! That is something that many commented on that sometimes you get a rainy, windy day and sometimes you get the heat! This year we certainly got the heat. Ah spring weather! Great job by the master chefs Brad and Frank!

The educational segment theme for April, in keeping with the Pizza Meetza theme is: Pizza, Italian or fast food and beverage related trains. We shall have to wait to see what appears!

April brings the Pizza Meetza to the Desert Division. After the business meeting, the Desert Division treats attendees with Pizza of many varieties. Soda and coffee will be available for sale, but the pizza is free! Following lunch will be the Pizza Meetza Auction! Peter Atonna will be

auctioning off lots that have been brought in for the auction. There will be some lots that have been generously donated to the Division/Kids Club/or Convention '09. Never can tell exactly what treasures may be in this auction.

So, come to the April Desert Division meet, stay for pizza and the auction. Should be a great time! Hope to see you all there at the next meeting of your Desert Division!

Happy Trains!



CONDOLENCES

The Desert Division offers a note of sympathy to Dave Brown, whose father passed away in March. Only such a family emergency could have kept Dave from the Ray Korte Memorial Picnic this year. Our most sincere condolences go out to Dave and his family at this time.

TURKEY MEET AUCTION LOTS

This is the time of year we begin putting together the 2007 Turkey Meet Auction. If you have any train related items that you would like to put in the auction or any questions about the auction, please contact Chet Henry at 480-838-0783 or bchenry@cox.net.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 11, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Steve Bienstock. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-998-9227 to be sure there are enough chairs.

PIZZA MEETZA AUCTION

The April Meet features the Pizza Meetza Auction. Lots are \$5 each and you may include as many items as you want in each lot. For more valuable lots, you may place a reserve on the lot. If you choose to donate items to Desert Division, those lots will be "no charge". The auction is limited to the first 100 lots. If you want to reserve your lots prior to the meet, call Chet Henry 480-838-0783 otherwise just bring them to the Pizza Meetza Auction at our next meet on April 14.

DESERT GREEN

Paul Wassermann's Pre-War AF streamliner and a rare Lionel City of Denver in green.



Bob Johnston's collection of Chicago and Northwestern cars, in various shades of green.



Clark McClure's "home-made" Young's Farm car



Gordon Wilson's assortment of "green" includes 4 aquarium cars – all different



John Craft brought a s 2 7/8" derrick car – a reproduction of 1903-4 Lionel production.



Jerry Sienkiewicz holds the rare green and Red Santa Fe car from his Hafner set.



Jonathan Peiffer describes several Pennsy GG-1's and a precursor, a P5-A.



John Wiley displayed a 1928 American Flyer set he recently acquired.



Earl Rasmussen holds the #153 model loco that goes with a coach and observation car.



From the kitchen, Ruth Elgar and Barbara Lautazi serve donuts and sodas to the Desert Division members.



Marty Wik shows the drawing of our Lionel O-Scale Convention car and a Flying Saucer car.



Raffles abound. In the foreground is the Hudson. Behind it is a Spring Raffle ad.



John Wiley won the \$100 in the March Hudson Raffle drawing.



DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2007

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A STAR-SPANGLED CONVENTION REVEALED

Last month members in attendance at our meet received a preview of our Convention's O-Scale car. A highly detailed Santa Fe Lines Reefer will join the TCA's 50th Anniversary Train set. There was also a hint and sneak peak at a potential "Kids Club" offering. At each subsequent meet Marty Wik, Convention Car Chair for our Division, will highlight another of our proposed 2009 Convention car lineup.

At lunch after the Meet and again at Bob Herman's After-Meet Visitation, one of the main topics of discussion pointed toward the potential convention tours and trips. With so many incredible world-class sites in Arizona, the hardest thing to do is to eliminate any of them. Here are the "survivors" of the Desert Division's version of "March Madness."

We're not called the Grand Canyon State for no reason. That huge "hole in the ground" is our #1 attraction. Coupled with this "Wonder of the World" will be a round-trip excursion on the Grand Canyon Railroad, together with dinner at Max and Thelma's restaurant at the depot in Williams. Just a bit south of the Grand Canyon, near Cottonwood, looms the spectacular Verde Canyon and the Verde Canyon Railroad, headed by two vintage F-7 diesels. Nearby, at Camp Verde, is the Out of Africa Wildlife Park, which will be coupled with the Anasazi Indian Ruins at Montezuma's Castle, one of our National Parks System's hidden gems.

Sticking to Northern Arizona, we have Sedona and Prescott. Sedona and the Red Rock Country are famous throughout the USA. We will be making available to our Convention guests a JeepTour of the area's back country trails followed by lunch and shopping at Tlaquepaque. Prescott offers us the world-class Western Art Phippen Museum, coupled with visits to the collections and layouts of Ray Dextrase, Marlin Benson, and Peter Atonna. This excursion will conclude with a catered "western cookout" at the Atonna "Horse and Train Ranch" in nearby Paulden, AZ.

Our Convention in 1997 had one major tour omission, a trip to Tucson. That will be corrected in 2009, as we are committed to visiting the Toy Train Operating Museum, run by many of our members and colleagues in Tucson. Not too far away will be a morning visit and lunch stop at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, one of the top 5 such facilities in the United States.

Closer to home and our Convention Hotel, the J. W. Marriott at Desert Ridge, will be a Western Theme night at the Fort McDowell Adventure Park in Fountain Hills. They've hosted such events for 18 years, but unlike Rawhide, are not open to the public. Another high-end, nationally known and reputed site is the Heard Museum in Central Phoenix.

Throughout the rest of the Valley are facilities such as the Hall of Flame, Pioneer Village, Phoenix Science Museum, Chase Field, the potential (depending upon Major League baseball) for a Diamondbacks Baseball game, University of Phoenix Stadium, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, and of course 200 golf courses in the close proximity of our host Hotel.

Speaking of our host Hotel, we have over 40,000 square feet of display space available for our Public Area. The rooms at the J. W. Marriott are synonymous with pure luxury. Aside from the plush bedding and over-sized rooms and bath areas, each room has a patio or balcony, a 27" flat screen television, and equipment for wireless Internet. Surrounding the 900-room facility are roughly 6 acres of water, ranging from slides to a Lazy River for tubing. Two world-class golf courses are on the property (They are the reason this facility was selected – they were there before the hotel was even built), one designed by Nick Faldo and the other by Hall of Famer, Arnold Palmer. Throughout the resort are nine restaurants, and less than a quarter of a mile away is the Desert Ridge Mall and its collection of stores and restaurants.

In conclusion, the variety of trips, tours, and facilities that are being offered truly makes this "Star-Spangled Convention" one not to be missed. There is something for everyone, regardless of age. Make plans now to attend and assist in the presentation of this event to the 30,000+ TCA members throughout the world. The Convention begins on Sunday, June 28, 2009, and concludes on Sunday, July 5, 2009. Just 26 months away!



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RAY KORTE MEMORIAL PICNIC – SPRING 2007

by Angelo Lautazi TCA 93-37260
Earl and Janice Rasmussen TCA 04-57574

The TCA/TTOS Spring Picnic is always held in March and the Arizona weather in March can be a turkey shoot at best. In recent years we have had rainy, windy, perfect weather (we like those) and this year we had unseasonably warm. Okay, it was HOT, but there was plenty of room under the Ramada at the Scottsdale Railroad Park, and its shade made it comfortable. There was plenty of room because our turnout was rather small this year since a lot of the members were attending the Nor-Cal Meet in Santa Clara, CA, which was held the same weekend. Go figure! The members and family who did attend enjoyed a delicious assortment of picnic fare, including a huge St. Patrick's Day cake brought in honor of Pat Boston's birthday.

Brad Martin and Frank Nickerson were the grill masters and cooked the polish sausage and hot dogs to perfection (as usual). The dogs were larger this year and mighty tasty. Brad also cooked up and brought his special recipe sauerkraut which was greatly appreciated by his fellow former New Yorkers. Barbara Lautazi bravely brought a new recipe of a fruit salad concoction that was rapidly devoured so that recipe is a "keeper." Thanks to everyone who brought side dishes of salads and desserts; there was plenty for all.

Our attendees included TCA, TTOS, and Paradise and Pacific members with spouses and family. We saw Sam McElwee chasing after a little guy dressed with a cape and a Suns T-shirt. Guess he was "Super Suns Fan!" Brad and Diane Martin brought their clan, including two grandsons. There were more families and children their names cannot be recalled.

Rolland LaHaie was our "volunteer" raffle seller and did a fine job. Just the right amount of guilt infliction without having to twist any arms. Hey, ten tickets for five dollars sounded like a good deal. Raffle winners were Sam McElwee (Lionel 9823 PRR Flat Car w/AEC Mac Trucks); Tony Salina (Lionel 6-9607 SP Hi-Cube); Bill East (Plasticville Covered Bridge); Eugene East (Train T-Shirt); and K-Line Cruisers went to Diane Martin, Ralph Treichel, Creston Davis and Brad Martin. (Two Martins on the winner's list. Hmmm!). There were a lot of hot dogs left so of course we had a quick auction and Art was drafted to be the auctioneer. He made quick work of it and Bill East will be eating hot dogs for a month. Anyway, we ate the hot dogs, drank our sodas, and stuffed down some desserts. We endured jokes and anecdotes from Art Triant and Earl Rasmussen. We had raffles, an auction, and some door prizes. We conversed, had a few laughs, caught up with some friends, and did a lot of schmoozing. It was the Spring Picnic and everyone had a good time.

You may view a slideshow of picnic pictures at: <http://www.tcadd.org>



Brad Martin and Franklin Nickerson – chefs extraordinaire!



A few of the delighted members at the Spring Picnic.



L – Picnickers line up for the food.

R – Once they had their food, they kibitzed, joked, and enjoyed the weather and the camaraderie. Some even won raffle prizes.



CELEBRATE ARIZONA UPDATE

by Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578

The first of our convention fundraiser projects, the Verde Canyon and Grand Canyon Railroad boxcars is now in production at Lionel! As you know from the ads, the deadline for ordering was February 14th and at the end of that time we had orders for 265 cars. The committee decided to order an extra 50 cars which we will sell at the 2008 TCA convention and if any are left, also at our convention - and at a higher price! So, with a few extras for lost in mailing, Lionel got an order for 320 cars.

If you were one of the DD members to order yourself a set, you should have a very collectible set, as well as having supported our convention.

Next it was on to the second car in the series. One of the hottest selling cars around is the Atlas beer car series. So, I researched the only Arizona brewery, the Arizona Brewing Company. For those of us growing up in the state, we bought A-1 Beer (when old enough, of course). It was sort of like Coors, but it was OUR beer. You can still see occasional A-1 neon signs on old bars in your travels. However, I found out that before World War II, they had a different logo and the beer was marketed as "Apache" beer.

The logo was striking and really had an Old Arizona feel to it. It also came in two versions, so there was the possibility of two cars. I contacted Atlas who also felt it would make a great beer reefer, so made us a prototype of each version. Showing it to our Convention Committee, they chose my favorite version as our next offering.

You can see a photo of it with this article and I will have the prototype for you to see at the April Pizza meet. It will be priced at the same as the Atlas beer car line, \$66 plus \$5.00 if you want it mailed and \$5.50 for Arizona sales tax for non-Desert Division members. You can also order it to be picked up at a meet and save the shipping cost. I am working on the ad that will run in CTT beginning with their July issue as well as the National Headquarters News. I will have a poster and some order forms at the April meet in case you would like to get a jump on ordering this car.



CAN YOU HELP?

by Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

Last year's Pizza Meetza raised nearly \$800 for the 2009 TCA Convention. This is YOUR Convention and that \$800 came from YOU. Here is HOW.

YOU were asked for good quality toy train items that YOU were either "stuck with" because it was fruitless trying to sell them OR the good quality material was something which YOU could no longer use.

So, YOU responded favorably and donated those items for auction at the Pizza Meetza. Then, because of the quality of the items, other members in attendance bid on them to the tune of \$800.

It is now a year later AND a year closer to the Convention. While the Division treasury has LOANED the Convention Committee \$10,000, the Committee would rather not use that money. So far, thanks to YOU, the members, the borrowed money still has a balance of \$10,000. What would be wonderful would be for YOUR generosity regarding the donation of quality items to be repeated on Saturday, April 14, the date of our next Division Meet.

When YOU arrive at the Jaycees Hall, seek out one of the Convention Steering Committee Members (Ed Micale, Chair; Bill Mack, Co-Chair; Chris Allen, Paul Wassermann, or Gordon Wilson) and give them YOUR donation. Please be sure that YOUR name is securely attached to it so that we may properly acknowledge YOU in the May issue of the Dispatch.

The final step in this scenario will be for the Pizza stuffed members to be impressed with the donated items and bid on them freely and often. Perhaps this year we will be able to double both the amount of the quality train donations and the amount of money bid on them. What happens is totally and completely up to YOU.

We hope to see everyone on April 14 at our annual Pizza Meetza. First, come to the regular met; then satiate YOUR hunger; and finally, at the Auction, bid early and often! The 2009 Desert Division Convention Steering Committee thanks YOU in advance.



DESERT DIVISION E-BAY AUCTIONS UNDERWAY

As part of the fund raising efforts for the 2009 TCA National Convention, the Desert Division has started selling donated and Division inventory items on the Ebay toy train auction venue. This is an excellent way for the Division to benefit from the huge audience that monitors Ebay for toy trains. Thanks to graphic assistance from Angelo Lautazi and technical assistance from Angelo and Terry Gibbs, an easily accessible auction venue is up and running. You can easily watch, and hopefully bid, on the auctions by either going to the Desert Division Website, www.tcadd.org, or directly to Ebay where we sell under the Ebay seller ID of tcadesertdivision.

The Division has accumulated a number of TCA related items over the years as a result of excess Convention promotional cars, accessories, and memorabilia that have been distributed to the Division from TCA National. In addition, many of our members are willing to donate items to the Division for the purpose of fund raising. We see this on a monthly basis at our local meeting raffles. Many individuals have already indicated a desire to contribute items to the Pizza Meetza Auction, and we had significant contributions to our 1997 National Welcome Party Silent Auction as well. Now there is yet another way to "give back" to the Division. Donate a train item for us to list on Ebay.

Ed Micale got us underway with his extraordinarily generous donation of his Lionel 7 car Union Pacific Anniversary re-issue set. This brought over \$300 in our first auction! We will try to have at least one item, hopefully two, running every week for as long as our donations and inventory allow. Log on and join the fun, knowing you are helping make the 2009 TCA National Convention the best it can be. All proceeds go directly to the 2009 Convention

Fund. If you would like to contribute an item for this activity contact Paul Wassermann, Katie Elgar, or Ed Micale, and one of us will see that your donation makes its way to Ebay.

DENVER CONVENTION UPDATE

The Westminster (Denver, CO) Westin, the HOME hotel for the 2007 TCA Convention in the Denver area is FULL. Dannie Martin has sent a notice to each Division advising them of two alternate hotels, a scant 5 minutes driving distance away. One is the OMNI INTERLOCKEN RESORT @ \$139 + tax per night. Call it and ask for the TRAIN COLLECTORS RATE @ 1-303-438-6600. The second nearby hotel is the DOUBLETREE DENVER NORTH for \$119 + tax per night. Their phone number is 1-303-427-4000, and be sure to ask for the TRAIN COLLECTORS RATE.

Another note of interest is that you can now register for the 2007 TCA National Convention in Denver by using a credit card. To do so, download a new registration form from their website www.rmdtoytrains.org and follow the directions on the form.

Last is the Golf outing. This will take place on Monday, June 25, in the early afternoon. Fees for the event will include dinner for all the golfers. Also, for any spouses or friends who may wish to join the group when the 18 holes are concluded, there will be a separate fee for just the dinner. For more information about the golf, contact Dannie Martin (dannieaz@cox.net).

We hope to see the usual large Desert Division contingent at this Convention. It looks as though it will be a spectacular event.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

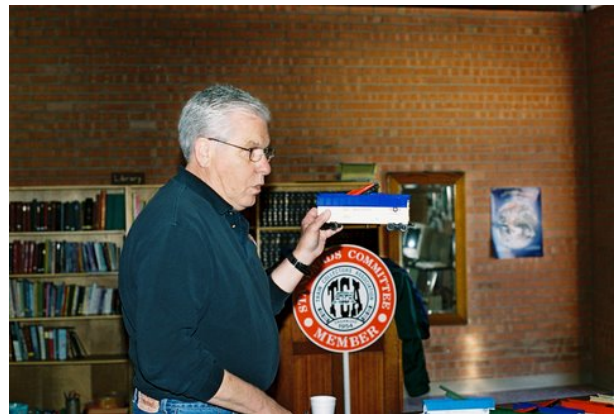
It was a great day for a TCA Rio Grande Chapter Meet. The weather was great and the day would end with record heat. Sure felt good compared to our past December and January weather. Before we started the Meet we had a moment of silence for Jim Spatafora, who passed away this month after a battle with lung cancer. We also said thank you and good by to Brenna-Leigh Bosch. Brenna, our Chapter Secretary, will be moving back to New Jersey. Good luck in Jersey, and a big thank you for helping us get our Chapter going. We started with 20 members, and now the member count is 38. So thank you Brenna for all your hard work.

Although we had no trains for sale at this Meet, we did have a fantastic education segment. Art Lites TCA#97-44623 brought his collection of Lionel Post War, and Modern Era Missile Firing Cars. Art first taught the members how the real U.S. Air Force developed Missile Cars for national defense. He talked about the development of the Minute Man Missile system, the MX Missile system, and the peacekeeper Missile system. He also told us of the different systems the Soviet Union had developed, which are still in use today. Art then went into different variations of the Lionel 3665 Minuteman Missile Car, 3666 Minuteman Cannon Car, 3619 Helicopter Reconnaissance Car, and the 6650 IRBM Launcher. It was very informative, and because Art was in the Air Force Missile program, he knows whereof he speaks when it comes to missile cars. Thanks Art for giving us this talk. It was very informative, and we all learned a lot. I brought a black light to show the members how it could be used to find repaints and repro parts. However it takes lots of practice, so I have a long time to practice with the black light before I can say it works. I will keep the members informed on the black light project. Terral Klaassen, TCA#76-10307, is helping me with this experiment.

The meeting portion started with the approval of the minutes. I then encouraged the members present to attend the 2007 TCA National Convention in Denver. Hotel rooms are going fast. Also Paul Hurford TCA#93-38356 and John Trever TCA#05-58604 are working on a fund raising project, possibly working with the Railrunner and NM DOT. Details will be discussed at the May 12th Meet. We need to have a Secretary for the next meet. I hope someone will come forward to fill out Brennas' term, which ends in January 2008. Please call me ASAP if you can help the Chapter. I will fill you in on the duties of Chapter Secretary. I would like to elect the Chapter Secretary at our May 12th Meet.

After the Meet Scott Eckstein, TCA 91-36114, opened his house, layout, and collection to the Rio Grande Chapter. He also had a big bowl of chili ready for us to eat for lunch. Thanks to the Ecksteins for a great after Meet activity. Don Mantay, TCA 97-45846, also opened his house to the members. His Holiday layout is coming down this week, so he offered the Chapter a look at it. Thanks Don for having us over.

During the May 12th Meet we will have several interesting items to discuss. I will have more information on guest speakers, and event schedules. At that Meet Jon Spargo TCA#05-59326 will conduct a tour of the Santa Fe 2926 Steam Locomotive restoration project. This will be our after Meet activity. This will be a must see. Maps and timelines will be available at the Meet. Further information will be in the May Chapter News. I will also make calls to remind you of the Meet and after Meet activities. For the May Meet I am putting on the agenda several outreach projects, for your consideration. One of these would be the formation of a TCA-Rio Grande Chapter Kids Club and another is a possible connection with the Ronald McDonald House of New Mexico. Please bring your outreach ideas to the May Meet. If any member wants to be part of an after Meet activity, please give me a call (505-898-3840) so I can make arrangements. See all of you at our next TCA-Rio Grande Chapter Meet on May 12, 2007 at 10:00AM, at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah N.E., in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please bring items to show and tell, as well as the items to sell or swap. The tables are free, so bring some stuff to trade.



Art Lites brought his collection of Missile Cars, and talked about them at the March Rio Grande Chapter Meet.

IN MEMORIAM

By Greg Palmer TCA #94-39039

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to inform the Rio Grande Chapter and the Desert Division of the passing of Mr. James Spatafora ,TCA #98-46795. Jim was a great friend and mentor. He passed away on March 2, 2007. He served his country, in the Air Force for 29 years. He was a Cold War Warrior serving in one of the most important events in world history, the Berlin Airlift.

Jim was also hooked on toy trains. He collected toy trains for most of his life, and his favorite era was Pre-War. His favorite locomotive was the Hudson. Jim got me involved in toy train clubs, i.e., TCA and TTOS, in the early 1990's. I first met Jim on my television screen. He was involved in making several cable access programs on repairing toy trains. I then went to the local swap meets and met Jim. We hit it off right away. We would sit for yours at his house, over several pots of coffee, talking toy trains. He was a great teacher, and I learned a lot of different repair techniques from Jim. If I had a question on repairs, at any time of the day or night, I knew I could call on Jim. He also responded the same way for anyone else who had a problem. The difference between Jim Spatafora and a lot of other collectors and repair experts is the fact that he enjoyed teaching others how to do the repair. He not only taught adults repair tips, but Jim loved to teach and talk with children and young adults. Jim and I would talk for hours about Lionel history, Madison Hardware, repair short cuts, and world history. I enjoyed sharing the evening with someone who would listen, as well as teach me about Lionel Trains and the world in general.

Jim and I had something else in common. The famous saying "It's a small world" is sometimes so true it's scary. I found out that Jim and his family, as well as my family, were in the same small town and area in Southern California in the 1950's and early 1960's. Both my father and Jim worked, at the same time, at Edwards Air Force Base, near Lancaster, California. In fact, my father worked with Jim's brother at the Missile Base at Edwards. Jim even bought Lionel trains for his kids at the same hardware store in Lancaster, Sid Osheim's Hardware on the Sierra Highway, during the same time my father was buying my first Lionel set and accessories from the same store. A small world, isn't it?

I will miss Jim very much. Our long talks about repairs, Lionel history, Madison Hardware, Aircraft, and world history will be something I will remember for the rest of my life. Jim, when I see you again, you'd better have the coffee ready.

PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MEET & VISITATION – RIO GRANDE CHAPTER



Above: (L-R) Scott Eckstein, Brenna-Leigh Bosch, Don Mantay, John Trever, and Paul Hurford.

Below: Scott Eckstein's American Flyer and Lionel layout



Above: (L-R) Marlin Janzen and Frank Dean get pointers on layout building from host Scott Eckstein.

Below: Scott Eckstein's Standard Gauge layout



* Desert Division's ** Spring Raffle 2007 *



1st Prize
MTH RAILKING
Alaska SW-1500
Ready-To-Run set
w/Proto Sounds 2!

2nd Prize

Lionel 6-18934 Reading Alco FA-2 A-A's

3rd Prize

Lionel 6-2315 Operating Coaling Station

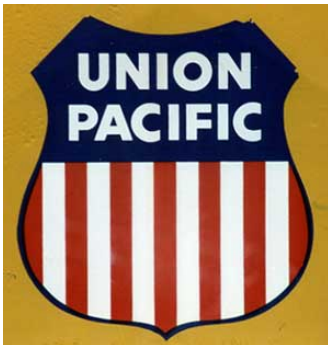


Tickets on sale starting March 10th, 2007 Drawing date June 9th, 2007 - Tickets \$10.00 ea 3/\$25.00
Need not be present to win!

JOIN IS AT ON APRIL 14 – PIZZA MEETZA & AUCTION
Educational Segment – Pizza/Italian/Food & Beverages
Donate Auction Items for the 2009 Convention

HAS UNION PACIFIC GONE TOO FAR?

Will the copyright lawyers ever leave the model train hobby alone? Seems unlikely now that the most recent victory won by Union Pacific alleged that the U.S. Air Force had infringed on the UP shield. In a story recently found on the internet, UP spokes person Conni Ruse said that the Air Force has agreed to modify the outline of the decades old shield to resemble that used by the U.S. Department of Transportation for highway route markers. "The shield outline that Union Pacific has used and has registered as our trade mark continues to be recognized as representing our company regardless of how we have updated the graphics over the years. We recognize the proud heritage of the Air Force and are grateful for their cooperation in adapting their logo to one that the public recognizes as belonging to the Department of Transportation." Officials for the U.S. Air Force would not comment on how soon the project would begin to update the logos on the affected aircraft but noted that under the agreement reached, it would be completed by April 1st, 2009.



KIDS CLUB NEWS

“NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN”

by Thomas Plies TCA 01-52481

AGE GROUP BASICS



Division's Kids Club mascot "Cub-boose"

The development of each child is different. Each grows differently and plays differently. Below you'll find an outline of what to expect at various stages in your child's life and suggestions about choosing the right toy train products for different ages.

IMPORTANT: Electric toy trains are not intended for unsupervised use under eight years of age.

BIRTH TO TWO YEARS: During the first two years of life, babies learn to focus and concentrate on objects. They have a growing sense of self-confidence, and they start to notice cause and effect. ("If I push this, it will move.") Babies love movement, sound, and especially repetition. Toy trains can be a wonderful source of excitement for them – as long as the parent/guardian is operating the train and the infant is watching from a safe distance. Despite the low track voltage, toddlers should never be allowed to touch any part of a train set or layout, or be left unattended while a train is running. **REMEMBER** – the train must always be operated by an adult.

People often tell me that the first toy they can remember is a Lionel train. That's because their parents bought the train when they were very young, often before they could walk or talk. Some families introduce even their youngest children to the magic of Lionel or MTH or others, but always with supervision.

THREE TO FIVE YEARS: Children at this stage have an increased attention span and more self-confidence. They focus on goals, so parents/guardians should let them start to solve problems. Although kids are not quite ready to handle electric trains on their own, these are ideal years for them to interact with trains on a supervised basis. Youngsters love making tunnels with their arms and legs and taking things in and out of train cars. Adults should operate the train and set the speed, but the child can sound the bell or whistle and stop and reverse the direction of the train. What fun! And what a learning experience it is. TCA-DD Kids Club sets some of these activities up at the Turkey Meets and will be setting some up at the 2009 TCA Convention.

For independent play at this stage, I recommend little play wooden trains, which children can "run" wherever they want to, whether it's on a track or on the kitchen floor. They can push a single engine or link up many cars to create a long lash-up. They feel the train and immediately notice the cause and effect of their actions.

FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS: According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "toys for this age group should promote skill development and creativity." At this stage, children develop skills by responding to challenges. They also need opportunities to choose their own activities, like hobbies and collections, which offer opportunities for organization and order. By age five, your child may be ready to operate the controller and control the speed of the train under parental supervision, but should steer clear of the transformer or wall socket. He or she will love the sense of control and learn more about cause and effect, while progressing into more involved stages of creative play.

EIGHT AND OLDER: Children begin to develop specific skills and life-long interests at this age, particularly hobbies and crafts. These kids are ready to get started with electric trains – alone or under supervision. Here is where you see their imagination soar. An older child may turn even a small layout into a complex and active imaginary world. The train hobby grows with the child; he or she "works" on it as an individual activity, then shares it with friends. If properly encouraged, your child's interest in model railroading can become a rich and rewarding lifetime pursuit.

For children at age eight and older, take a look at the most popular Starter Sets, and let them choose one. As their interest and skill level develops, they will be ready for more elaborate layouts and a variety of accessories.

Check these exciting products for your children:

Age 3 to 5 – Look at little wooden play trains

Age 5 to 8 – Look at little play trains for independent play, or check out Starter Sets for supervised fun.

Age 8 and up – Take a look at the most popular Starter Sets for older kids.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.tcadd.org
Click on the link to our e-Bay offerings.

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ANTIQUE TRAINS - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT! – Super Special Uncataloged Caterpillar Work Train! Scale Rail King SD45 w/PS2 & smoke, 40' HiCube Boxcar, crane and crane tender in striking Caterpillar livery - reg \$510, club priced \$429.95. Lionel SP U33C power and dummy Railsounds 5 w/Odyssey & smoke - reg \$615, club priced \$549.95 – Lionel Rio Grande Extended Vision Caboose w/smoke - reg \$90, club \$76.49. Just arrived Lionel std. O UP 40' boxcar w/load - reg \$60, club \$53.99 - Rail King Scale Pennsy FM Trainmaster w/ PS/2, lighted number boards, bi-directional headlight, MARS light, red/green marker lights, and two figures! List \$300 club priced \$269.95. - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486, open late Wed.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. Pat Eiff has joined our staff to better serve our customers in sales and service of both new and pre-owned trains. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different "Set of the Month" each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

GERRY'S TRAINS – Complete parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Drive, Scottsdale, AZ Phone (480) 991-2536.

BUILDING A LAYOUT? - We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100" and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

REPAIRS - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthruetime.com>.

FOR SALE – Replacement bulbs for your trains – over 80 different ones in stock. Also carry common Lionel parts: e-units, drums, brushes, coupler knuckles, etc. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit my web site, sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

WANTED – Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist – can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

FOR SALE – 4 pieces Homosote, unmolested, 4' x 8', \$10 each. 4 pieces ½" particle board, unmolested, \$10 each. 6 heavy duty tables 8' x 30", unmolested, \$50 each. Together these make a portable 8' by 16' layout. You haul. Tom Keys 480-899-1541.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

FOR SALE - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 "O" Gauge Tinplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: dzedo2@earthlink.net.

FOR SALE – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail 4aztrains@earthlink.net.

WANTED – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 14 | Pizza Meetza, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
<u>Theme: Pizza/Italian/Food & Beverage Trains</u>
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between McDonald and Chaparral |
| April 19-21 | Eastern Division Meet, York, PA |
| May 12 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM |
| May 12 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| June 9 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM |
| June 24-30 | TCA National Convention – Westminster, CO |

Have You **PADE** Your Way?

- P**urchase raffle tickets
- A**uthor an article for the Dispatch
- D**onate something to the club
- E**nlist to help

PADE PROMOTIONS

Thanks to everyone who donated an item to the 2009 Convention to be auctioned in the Pizza Meetza Auction in April. Ernestine Bong and the Rasmussens are among these. Phone donors are also appreciated. Steve Palmer continues to donate wonderful raffle prizes, and in March Christie Wilson and Kalmbach donated raffle prizes as well.

Angelo Lautazi and Terry Gibbs have updated the Division's website so that we now have a link to our Desert Division e-Bay offerings.

Thank-you's go to Ruth Elgar and Barbara Lautazi, who ably handled the kitchen in February, and to Jonathan Peiffer for his continued help with the newsletter. We also thank everyone who brought trains for the March Educational Segment. Remember that April's theme is "Pizza/Italian/Food & Beverage Trains."

Your name could appear in this space. You need only do something to benefit the Division.